

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01665 050735Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121384 050850Z /11

R 050655Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

S E C R E T JIDDA 1665
EXDIS
THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION AMMAN AND RIYAH
ON 04 MAR 78 FROM JIDDA IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

S E C R E T JIDDA 1648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L. JR.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON VISIT

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY
UNDERSECRETARY THUNAYYAN WHO INFORMED ME THAT PRINCE SAUD
WILL NOT RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA UNTIL TUESDAY. HE
SUGGESTED THAT ATHERTON COME TO JIDDA RATHER THAN RIYADH.
IN JIDDA, HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY THUNAYYAN AND MANSOURI,
THE SECOND AND THIRD RANKING MEN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY,
FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

2. THUNAYYAN SAID THAT CROWN PRINCE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE
IN RIYADH, BUT HE, THUNAYYAN, WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST A
DINNER FOR ATHERTON AND PARTY IN JIDDA ON SUNDAY NIGHT.

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THUNAYYAN MENTIONED THAT PRINCE SAUD WAS SEEING A PHYSICIAN
IN SWITZERLAND FOR AN INFECTION IN HIS HAND WHICH WAS A
RESULT OF A SKIING ACCIDENT.

3. AT THIS POINT, THUNAYYAN TURNED THE TELEPHONE OVER
TO MANSOURI WHO WAS ALSO IN THUNAYYAN'S OFFICE. I ASKED
MANSOURI ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE KING WHICH THE

SAUDIS OFFERED IF THE CROWN PRINCE WERE NOT AVAILABLE.
MANSOURI REPLIED THAT THE KING WAS ALSO NOT AVAILABLE.

4. MANSOURI THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE
WOULD BE FOR ATHERTON TO POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA
UNTIL THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED.

5. COMMENT: I READ ALL THIS AS A SIGNAL THAT PRINCE SAUD
WANTS TO BE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD
PREFER THAT THE VISIT BE RESCHEDULED AFTER HIS RETURN FROM
HIS SWISS VACATION. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU
CANCEL THE VISIT FOR NOW AND RESCHEDULE AFTER WE HAVE
DEFINITE CONFIRMATION THAT SAUD HAS IN FACT RETURNED TO
HIS JOB. PERHAPS YOU COULD PLAN TO COME TO RIYADH AFTER
YOUR NEXT VISIT TO CAIRO. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD COME
TO JIDDA TO MEET WITH MANSOURI AND THUNAYYAN, BUT I BELIEVE
YOUR TRIP WOULD HAVE MORE IMPACT ON THE SUADIS IF IT WERE
RESCHEDULED AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS.

6. PLEASE REPLY BY FLASH TO EMBASSY JIDDA, INFO RIYADH.
WILEY UNQUOTE
WILEY

SECRET

NNN

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